First and foremost, I would urge the Council to immediately fund and start a sustained statewide education and awareness campaign on the benefits of a clean energy economy. This education campaign is necessary to counter the relentless and massive disinformation crusades, documented at https://bit.ly/GaslightNY, by fossil-fuel interests and status-quo forces who've spent decades perfecting their chicanery, first to deny climate science, and now to cast doubt on the solutions. Given their long and expansive track record of weaponizing disinformation to sustain the extraction and burning fossil fuels, the absence of a public information component in the scoping plan is a surprising, but grave oversight.

Waste reduction, along with **reuse** and **recycling** of materials and products is important for reducing GHG emissions Statewide. Furthermore, the three R's improve the efficiency of our economy. We must **reduce** or eliminate GHG emissions associated with materials and products whose production can be avoided by implementing more environmentally conscious packaging, distribution, and marketing options. It must be noted that reducing the amount of waste also reduces energy used and the associated emissions from freight transportation, for example, transporting the over-packaged goods as well as the discarded packaging.

I support a per-ton surcharge on all waste to encourage reduction, reuse, and recycling, along with increased funding for sustainable materials management research. Furthermore, I support legislation to require reusable/refillable options in retail outlets and to allow single-use products on a "by request only" basis. Recycling must be supported through requirements for minimum levels of recycled content in products and packaging and expansion of container deposit programs. The State must use its purchasing power to drive recycling by enforcement of procurement standards for recyclable products.

I support additional measures to limit waste and encourage recycling, including a comprehensive textile waste reduction and recycling program, expansion of extended producer requirements, and expansion of legislation to reduce and phase out single-use packaging.

The utilization of recycled materials can markedly reduce waste volume and associated emissions. For instance, the use of recycled paper products not only reduces demand for "virgin timber" but also reduces the number of trees that could be utilized as natural sequestering of emissions. Reduction and increased management of waste in disadvantaged and other environmental justice communities will be key in reducing disproportionate exposure to emissions and other safety risks including, but not limited to, truck traffic.

I wholeheartedly support the plan to promote waste reduction, product reuse, and product recycling throughout the State. I also support mitigating GHG emissions from the reduced waste stream.

New York's mismanagement of generated waste accounts for approximately 12% of statewide emissions with landfills accounting for the vast majority. I support strengthening the Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law by setting a target of 100% diversion by 2030 with

timetables for elimination of combustion and landfilling of organics. Expanded funding is needed for programs that connect major generators of excess edible food with local food banks.

To divert organic material from landfills and incinerators, we must expand local financial assistance for organics recycling infrastructure and must require local solid waste management to implement food scraps recovery. Successful models of organics collection programs must be expanded to residential housing, including multi-family and public housing.

While the waste section of the scoping plan includes serviceable recommendations for waste management, it also promotes problematic strategies opposed by the Climate Justice Working Group, various environmental organizations, and some green groups. These include creating new markets for biogas utilization or mixing biogas with fossil gas for use in conventional markets. These recommendations are not consistent with the principles of environmental justice, undermine the CLCPA's emissions reduction targets due to fugitive methane emissions, and delay the decommissioning of the gas transport and distribution infrastructure. Any use of biogas that is not at the site of its production would likely enhance the utilization and profitability of the gas transportation and distribution system, thus delaying the decommissioning of this infrastructure and resulting in fugitive emissions not only from biogas, but also from the fossil gas whose utilization will be prolonged in the process.

Therefore, electricity generation from gas produced at waste sites and wastewater resource recovery facilities must be done without harming disadvantaged communities and limited to on-site generation only, as off-site generation poses a high risk of fugitive emissions from pipelines. Moreover, research must be funded to devise and deploy large-scale fuel-cell based utilization of biogas for electricity generation rather than the traditional generation based on combustion that is both inefficient and polluting.

Rethinking and redesigning waste systems is vital to a transformative outcome. Waste reduction and local scale diversion practices must meet the greater ambition in reducing emissions.